

April 24, 2007

Puget Sound Region
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Regarding: Food and Drink policy and Pet policy and unattended children policy

To: All Club Directors to disburse to all Team Reps and head coaches, Team Reps, Tournament Directors and Officials.

It has come to our attention that there have been abuses of some of the facilities policies within our Puget Sound Region. Most of the problem is with food. Some issues are with pets and the most serious is with unattended children at both Juniors and Adults events.

The facilities are rented by the tournament hosts and they are required to sign a contract in many cases. This contract contains verbiage that holds the host and therefore the Puget Sound Region, since we sanction and insure the event, liable for any violations of the contract. **Signs posted at sites** are not just for decoration, they **are to be read and the instructions or limitations observed**. Harassment of hosts and/or site management, officials, or any facility employee are not to be tolerated. **Removal of the offender from the site is now required.**

Many of the Puget Sound Region members are bringing lunch or provisions for their team and parents instead of the old fashioned "everyone bring your own cooler". This has grown into what seems like a "Who can have the biggest and most extravagant tailgating party", in the gym's designated food area. **This is no longer acceptable.**

Facilities are not rented with banquets in mind and do not provide for enough outlets for every teams assortment of crock pots, electric frying pans, deli meat slicers, etc. This has also led to some **fire alarms being triggered**. When teams bring a canopy for outside, they are sometimes **blocking fire lane access and also handicap parking** in some instances. School officials see these while driving by and are **not inclined to rent to the renter again, since the renter has only rented the gym**. There is a large fine for blocking fire lanes, blocking of handicapped parking spaces and false fire alarms. In addition, there are inherent dangers to unattended children who may be attracted to these hot or unsteady displays. And finally, these "tent cities" may attract some "unsavory sorts" off of the street who may be looking for a free meal.

The dog policy is simple. **No animals are allowed at a public school in the state of Washington unless it is a certified service animal.** Sometimes, during the function of a school program, animals are admitted, but only with the consent of the administration. Our volleyball tournaments and practices do not fall under this category. **Any resistance to this policy will result in the offending party being removed from the event.**

The most common complaint specifically about dogs at the sites is the owners who do not police the animals “comfort stops” on the grounds of the school. There have been several complaints to the commissioner about this by phone before 8 am on Monday mornings. The other complaint is that someone is or may be allergic to dog hair. They don’t expect an animal at a volleyball tournament.

There is a “Childrens Policy” which states, in short, that **children must be supervised at all times by a responsible care giver**. If children are found in areas not for use by the tournament and they are indeed not being supervised or they are interrupting play on the courts, then the parents will be found and made to supervise them. If this is not done, then **the team with whom the child is associated may be declared in default until the situation is under control or until the offenders have left the facility**.

Teams and Clubs have a difficult time getting facilities for practices and tournaments. Part of the reason is that **administrators are determining that we are abusing the premises** with our food and pets and unsupervised children. It is already difficult using the proper equipment at some sites since PSR members are being blamed for incorrect usage or damage to the equipment, whether true or not.

In order for the region to grow and to have as many tournaments as needed to assure that each team have an appropriate number of events during the season, it is imperative that we foster good will with the providers of these facilities and the equipment necessary for a great season.

The three appendices explain the new policies that will be enforced at the regional championships in the coming weeks. The dog policy and the unattended children policy have been in effect for some time yet some have not seen them and the food policy is new.

Something needed to be sent to the general membership so that everyone has the opportunity to see it prior to the Regional Championships. I urge all of the parties to whom this was sent to make a copy for each of the parents reps for each juniors team and to all team members for the adults events. We have already had some of our regional championships where problems occurred and **we are in danger of losing sights if we are not proactive with these issues**.

Thank you for your understanding and adherence to these policies.

Sincerely,

Jenny Vogt, Commissioner
Puget Sound Region

Attached: Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C

Appendix A

Policy regarding non-member children at Puget Sound Region sanctioned events.

Because of conditions that exist at USAV Puget Sound Region sanctioned events, it is not suitable for unsupervised children.

1. Children of adult players at events must have a non-participating supervisor at all times.
2. Children of Coaches at Juniors' events must have a non-participating supervisor at all times.
3. Supervisors of these children must abide by and see that the children abide by all rules and regulations of the facility and grounds of the sanctioned event.
4. The children and their supervisors must respect the direction of the Site director and Tournament Director at these sanctioned events.
5. In the event that children at an event are not supervised properly, then the parent will be asked to take the children and leave the event.
6. If in the case of #5, this leaves a team without enough players or a juniors team without an IMPACT certified coach the team will be declared in default.
7. It will be the sole discretion of the Site Director to determine whether actions of the children warrant removal from the event.
8. All policies of the Puget Sound Region are subject to the appeals and due process remedies as specified in the By Laws of the Region.

This policy is a part of the Operating Code of the Puget Sound Region and will be inserted appropriately into the By Laws, Tournament Procedures Manual, Players Handbook and posted prominently on the Regions website.

Policy Regarding Children: (from the member handbook)

The PSR does not allow unsupervised non-participating children at any venues. Children must be supervised by a non-participating care giver. Non USAV member children are not allowed on the team bench at any time nor are they allowed on the playing court. Parents of children who are found to be in non-authorized areas or are interfering with the tournament in any way, or who are not complying with the facility rules will be dismissed from the tournament until the situation is resolved.

Appendix B

Policy Regarding Pets: (from the member handbook)

The PSR does not allow pets in any of its venues. People who bring their animals to a site should not expect that they be allowed on school grounds or in the gym. Participants should make other arrangements for their pets during tournaments.

No animals are allowed at a public school in the state of Washington unless it is a certified service animal. Sometimes, during the function of a school program, animals are admitted, but only with the consent of the administration.

Our Puget Sound Region volleyball tournaments and practices do not fall under this category. Any resistance to this policy will result in the offending party being removed from the event/premises.

Appendix C

Tournament Play: Food and Facilities: (from the member handbook)

.e. Whether signs are posted or not, the region has a policy that all members and their supporters shall have no food, food containers, or flavored drinks in the gyms. Individual tournament directors and/or gym managers have the right to amend this if their gym allows food, etc. This revised policy must be announced at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.

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1 infraction: warning

nd
2 infraction: Points penalty in the next game they play -- 13-point penalty for games 1 or 2, 8 points for game 3.

rd
3) 3 infraction: disqualification from tournament.

The food policy is expanded to deny any crock pots, electric cooking devices of any kind, and outside bar-b-cue like appliances at any of its venues. Tournament hosts are not required to provide cooking facilities, or any outlets to any of the participants or parents, spouses or children of the participants.

Any additional costs, fines or penalties resulting from the use of these prohibited items will be borne by those who are found at fault for using these items. Further, any prohibited action regarding food and its preparation may result in the removal of the associated team from the event.

Any outdoor portable structure such as a gazebo, canopy or tent erected for a specific teams use must be located outside of any fire lane or restricted parking space. Prior to erecting one of these, the owner must have the permission from the host and direction of acceptable placement at the site. Such structure should be supervised at all times to ensure that no one can be injured by anything contained therein.

The user accepts any and all responsibility for the safety and security of all its foodstuffs, containers, personal property and structures.